

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-4 and new claim 5 are now in this application. Claims 1-3 are subject to examination together with new claim 5. Claim 4 has been withdrawn from examination. Claim 1 has been amended. A marked-up version of the claim is attached hereto on separate pages.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the Examiner's confirmation of receipt of applicants' claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d). On December 19, 2001, applicants filed a claim for priority together with the certified copy of the German Patent Application 199 22 425.0, filed May 14, 1999.

In item No. 1 on page 2 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1-3 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Levine (U.S. 3,184,622) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the contact element of the connector is electro-conductively connected to the electromagnet coil when the connector engages the connector receptacle. Support for this change is found on

page 8, lines 18-19 of the specification of the instant application.

The Levine reference discloses a bell striker assembly with an electromagnetic actuator containing at least one electromagnet 90 having a coil and a slidably mounted plunger 100 which carries a striker rod 102 at one end thereof. A spring 104 surrounds the striker rod as shown in its "at rest" position in Fig. 8. A conically shaped pin 107, 108 is located at the other end of the plunger for opening and closing a pair of spring contacts 110 and 112, respectively. The contact assembly is best shown in Fig. 9 and includes three circular washers 114, 116, 118 having holes 120 which are aligned to receive the locking pins 122. When the spring contact 110 is moved toward the spring contact 112 by the weight of the plunger 100 the two contacts are closed. When the plunger moves upwardly away from the contact assembly, the contacts are spaced apart in an open position.

Clearly, Levine does not show or teach a contact element that is part of the connector or a contact element that is electrically connected with a contacting element that is part of the assembly support when the connector engages a connector receptacle as recited in claim 1, or when it is part of the support for mounting the armature as recited in new claim 5 of the instant application. Further, the Examiner, in his

rejection, has relied on the washer 110 in Levine as both the "second contact surface" and the "contact element" of the connector. Such an application of the prior art is inappropriate, particularly since the claims recite the "second contact surface" and the "contact element" as separate and distinct claimed features.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that the reference does not show or suggest the features of claims 1 and 5. Claims 1 and 5 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims 2 and 3 are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claim 1.

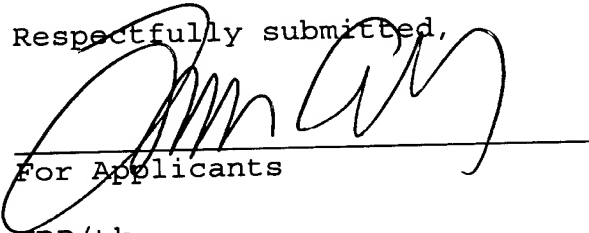
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-5 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of one month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$ 110.00 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to
Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and
Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicants

FDP/tk

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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made:

Claim 1. (Amended) An electromagnetic actuator, comprising:

at least one electromagnet having a coil and a first contact surface;

a second contact surface;

at least one resetting device;

an armature having a shank mechanically coupled to said resetting device, said armature being movable between said first contact surface on said electromagnet and said second contact surface;

a connector receptacle; and

a connector having at least one contact element electro-conductively connected to said coil of said electromagnet and [disposed such that] causing, at least during an assembly of the actuator onto a support, said contact element [can] to be electrically contacted by an assembly contacting element, upon said connector engaging said connector receptacle.